

GENERAL SECRETARIAT.

Measures to prevent Epidemic of Small-pox.

READ—

Letter No. C. 602, dated the 11th—12th April 1932, from the Director of Health in Mysore, suggesting certain measures against the apprehended epidemic of small-pox in 1934.

ORDER No. G. 8989-9011—P. H. 11-31-32, DATED 14TH MAY 1932.

On a close study of the annual statistics relating to small-pox, the Director has come to the conclusion that the disease occurs in epidemic waves with crests every 5 or 6 years, that it is probable that the year 1934 will be the next peak year and that there is every likelihood of the cases of small-pox steadily rising from now till that year. This periodicity is in the main reported to be due to the aggregation of the unprotected people in the community such aggregation including not only those who have not taken the first vaccination but also those in whom the effects of previous vaccination have partially or completely faded. He estimates the total number of unprotected persons in the State at over 15,00,000. He considers that a possible outbreak of small-pox amongst such a large number of unprotected people can only be prevented by pushing on vaccination work more vigorously than it has been possible in the past. With a view to enable the local bodies to institute advance special vaccination campaigns, he has made following proposals:—

(i) The Presidents of District Boards and Municipalities in consultation with the Director of Health may be empowered to employ out of their funds temporary vaccinators for varying periods not exceeding six months at a time without the previous sanction of Government.

(ii) On application by the local body concerned to the Senior Surgeon and with his approval, the local Sub-Assistant Surgeon may be permitted to perform vaccinations within Municipal limits twice in a week by house to house visits, on a payment of a suitable remuneration from the funds of the respective Municipal Councils, which may be fixed at Rs. 5 in the case of Minor Municipalities and Rs. 10 in the case of other Town Municipalities, per mensem.

Government are pleased to approve of the above recommendations.

The Director has also forwarded for approval a leaflet warning the people of the threatened outbreak of small-pox in 1934 and inviting their co-operation.

The leaflet* is approved. The Director is requested to get it printed free of charge in the Government Press and circulate it among the Deputy Commissioners and Presidents of local bodies as proposed.

(*Printed as annexure.)

H. V. RAMASVAMI,
Offg. Secretary to Government,
General Department.

ANNEXURE.

SMALL-POX IN MYSORE.

Small-pox occurs in epidemic waves having definite years of increased prevalence with intervening years of comparatively lessened severity. According to the records of the Mysore Department of Health, epidemics of small-pox in Mysore State come every five or six years. On going over these records, it is found that 1906, 1914, 1919, 1925 and 1929 were years of greatly increased prevalence. It seems probable that 1934 will be the next epidemic year and that during 1932 and 1933 the number of cases will be slowly increasing.

Small-pox is an easily preventable disease. A programme for its control would demand:

(1) the vaccination of all infants as early as possible after birth before they are six months old,

(2) re-vaccination of all others, adults included, every six years or oftener.

Such a programme can only be carried out through co-operation with the Department of Health by all Government officials, all local authorities and the general public. This co-operation becomes particularly important in view of the threatened epidemic in 1934.

Mysore has a reputation to maintain. Only, if all in the State work together to achieve the common good can this be kept at its present high level. The slogan should be:—

“No small-pox in Mysore.”

Rules relating to the training and employment of Vaccinators.

READ—

Government Order No. G. 10116-37—San. 78-29-18, dated 4th April 1931, issuing revised rules for the training and employment of vaccinators.

2. Letter No. C. 487-33, dated 3rd March 1932, from the Director of Health in Mysore, suggesting certain amendments to rule 8 of the rules referred to above.

ORDER NO. G. 8951-70—P. H. 82-31-3, DATED BANGALORE, 13TH MAY 1932.

The Director of Health has suggested the desirability of amending rule 8 of the rules referred to above with a view to provide for the issue of duplicate certificates when the originals are lost, on payment of a fee of one rupee.

As certain other rules also seemed to require modifications, the Director was requested to examine them and suggest amendments, if any. He has accordingly recommended that rules 6 to 10 be modified or amplified as hereunder:—

Rule 6 (iii).—For “they” read “private candidates.” Substitute the following in place of the existing rules, 7, 8, 9 and 10:—

Rule 7.—At the end of each session, there shall be an examination conducted by the Superintendent, Vaccine Institute, to which no candidate shall be admitted unless he has attended 90 per cent of the working days in the session.

Rule 8.—At such an examination, no candidate shall be declared to have qualified himself for a certificate unless he obtains 50 per cent in the theoretical and 80 per cent in the practical and *viva voce* portions of the examination.

A certificate under the signature of the Superintendent of the Vaccine Institute and the counter-signature of the Director of Health in Mysore, Bangalore, shall be granted to each successful candidate in the prescribed form.

Rule 9.—A candidate losing his certificate may obtain a duplicate copy of the same on application to the Superintendent, Vaccine Institute, in the prescribed form accompanied by a fee of one rupee.

Rule 10.—On a failure to secure admission to an examination as per rule 7 or a pass in it as per rule 8, no candidate shall be permitted to sit for the next sessional examination unless he takes a further full course of three months in a subsequent session and pays an examination fee of Rs. 10 at the end of such a course.

3. The Director has also forwarded for approval, the accompanying forms of the qualifying certificate and of application for duplicate copy thereof. He suggests that the certificates may be printed on thick paper as in the case of those awarded to Midwives and Compounders.

The above proposals are approved.

H. V. RAMASVAMI,
Offg. Secretary to Government,
General Department.